

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006 LB 1024

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CORNETT: ...I'm not a major fan of the Omaha World-Herald. And I certainly respect Senator Chambers' legal opinion. But his area of specialization in law has not been segregation. There are three national attorneys that specialize in segregation that were interviewed, that have read what we are trying to do and have found that we are suspect. How are we going to look nationally? How are we going to look to our constituents when we're found wrong? We need to stop and we need to think what we are doing and what we are trying to push through at 9:00 at night. I support Senator Bourne's suggestion for a special session. And Senator Bourne is talking about his wife being mad because she is expecting a baby. Well, I have a baby due in June. If we have a special session, I'll be dragging it here with me, to put it plainly. But I am willing to sacrifice that because...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Cornett.

SENATOR CORNETT: ...this issue is that important. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cornett. Senator McDonald, followed by Senator Beutler and others.

SENATOR McDONALD: Mr. President and members of the body, this is the first chance that I've had to get into the conversation on this. I was not on the floor when we first debated this. I also serve on the Education Committee, and many times we would go over the outline for this bill, and many times we would vote and we wouldn't bring it to the floor. And why wouldn't we bring it to the floor? Because it was too complicated. It tried to encompass too many things. Keep it simple so that everyone can understand what's going on. And I had believed earlier today that I could support it now because I understood it. Now with a 158-page amendment, I'm not so sure that I can. And as I rapidly went through it, it talks about Class VI schools, Class I schools. I'm not so sure that the school finance hasn't been changed in that. I'm very confused and at this point I can't support the bill. I think we need to take Senator Bourne's suggestion and really do what's right in this.